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Friday, January 18, 2013

EID-Calif.: EID Op-Ed on HF disclosure rules featured in over 40 U.S. newspapers, including: L.A. Daily News, Denver Post, Oakland Tribune, Monterey County Herald, and Daily Camera
 EID-Marcellus: Guest post from Commonwealth Fdn's Stelle looks at assertions in Promised Land (1/17)
 EID-Ohio: FORTUNE names CHK one of the best companies for which to work in 2012 (1/17)

NATIONAL

"Celebrities" Marcellus tour causes commotion. Associated Press. Tom Shepstone of Energy In Depth trailed the celebrities' sleek silver Mercedes tour bus — which had trouble negotiating an icy hill at one point and had to creep back down — and declared the visit to be a publicity stunt. "They don't pay mortgages here, they don't have to get jobs here, they don't have to pay taxes here, they don't have to support their families here. They just come up here to pick on this area and use it as part of their trendy cause," he said. NOTE: WNEP, WBRE, Times Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, YNN, New York One, Daily Star and Fox 40 also report

Officials expect new film on HF to be received poorly in Weld. Greeley Tribune. "The fact that 'Promised Land' is failing at the box office shows the general public doesn't find hydraulic fracturing anywhere near as controversial or sensational as Matt Damon and activists had hoped," Loper said... Loper, Western Field Director for Energy In Depth, said she thinks the movie will not do well in Greeley because the industry has had a positive impact.

Focus on the Negative. Scranton Times Tribune, EID's Tom Shepstone. In The Times-Tribune I came across, "Boom a bust for hospital (Jan. 15)." I thought the paper might be commenting on the \$3 million donation Cabot Oil and Gas provided to help advance the new Montrose hospital, but this was not the case. Instead of focusing on this backyard success, The Times-Tribune looked three counties away to find a "problem."

House Democrats push EPA to move faster on Pavillion. E&E News (sub req'd). Illinois Rep. Jan Schakowsky and 19 co-signers sent a letter today to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, urging her to speed up the agency's probe of water contamination from oil fields around Pavillion, Wyo. After releasing hotly contested draft conclusions in late 2011, EPA has extended the public comment period a number of times, most recently announcing that a final report would not be released until September

Shale Boom Redraws Liquefied Petroleum Gas Market Map. Money News. Soaring U.S. exports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a side product of the shale boom, are giving energy markets a taste of the tectonic changes they could see if and when the United States passes the milestone of exporting natural

gas.

Shale states may see credit lift: Kroll. Gas Business Briefing (sub req'd). Three states allowing high-volume hydraulic fracturing in shale plays: Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, will likely see improved credit quality for bonds issued by state and local governments, a Kroll Bond Rating Agency analysis shows. ...The Kroll analysts urged policymakers to take a serious look at creating oil and gas trust funds with a portion of their severance taxes and fees.

DNV launches global recommended practice for shale. International Business Times, PR. NV, an independent foundation with the purpose of safeguarding life, property and the environment, has launched recommended practice (RP) for the entire life cycle of shale gas extraction, based on risk management principles, industry best practices and standards.

Is gas a mineral? Lexology. In *Butler v. Charles Powers Estate*, Pennsylvania's highest court will consider whether rights to natural gas produced from the Marcellus shale should qualify as "mineral" rights under an 1881 deed. The deed at issue contained an exception reserving "one half the minerals and Petroleum Oils to said Charles Powers and his heirs and assigns forever..."

INTERNATIONAL

China offers greatest prize of all for shale gas. National Post. In its latest annual outlook, published on Wednesday, BP predicts China will be the most successful country outside North America in developing shale gas by 2030. Given the country's enormous shale resources and large prospective market, coupled with its ready availability of capital and proven engineering expertise, it is hard to argue with that assessment.

Chevron Digs Deeper Into Eastern Europe For Shale Gas. Forbes. Smaller Eastern European nations such as Poland and Lithuania have traditionally been rather heavily reliant on Russia for their energy needs. Massive networks of soviet-era pipelines are still supplying a large chunk of their natural gas requirements, and now these countries want to break free from this energy dependency.

Anti-shale gas campaign gets new momentum with Svoboda. Kyiv Post. Ukraine's feeble attempts to wean itself from natural gas dependency through diversification are now finding enemies in unexpected places, including the oppositional Svoboda Party, which is now a political player on the national stage.

Ukraine's Kharkiv council approves shale gas deal with Shell. Platts. A major obstacle to the government signing a production sharing agreement with Shell on extraction of shale gas in Ukraine was removed Thursday as the Kharkiv regional council gave its approval to the project, a day after the Donetsk Council gave its approval.

Japan chemical firms eye shale gas projects. Daily Yomiuri. Japanese chemical makers are striving to take advantage of the shale gas revolution in the United States to cut production costs, industry officials have said.

Consultation on waste. Lancashire Evening Post. The Environment Agency is holding a public consultation into an application by a subsidiary of Cuadrilla Resources to manage waste water related to fracking.

CALIFORNIA

Will the Golden State Correct Its Budget with Black Gold? Fox Business Network, Video Interview. In an interview with Fox Business News, The Manhattan Institute's Mark Mills breaks down the enormous economic impact the Monterey Shale field could provide to California. According to Mills, "The total economic benefits would run, just for California, in the trillion dollar range."

Hydraulic fracturing a key issue for those in water industry. Ventura County Star. But it does not now appear to threaten Ventura County's groundwater, he told a full house at a breakfast meeting of the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County. "We have some definite threats to groundwater in Ventura County. Let's not forget those," Bachman said. "Those ones are the big ones — overdraft, salts and nutrients that are in the aquifer from man-made activities, and surface spills in critical areas."

ILLINOIS

Go slow: HF requires caution, balance. Canton Daily Ledger, Op-Ed. The General Assembly must not get stampeded. Illinois needs a balance between environmental safety and economic development.

NORTH CAROLINA

Piedmont Natural Gas seeks to cut rates. WRAL News. Piedmont Natural Gas (NYSE: PNY) has filed requests with regulators to reduce its natural gas rates in North and South Carolina.

NORTHEAST

HF in Maryland: Still under study. Washington Post. But even if the legislature approves the funding, it appears unlikely that the study would produce conclusive results this year. And a spokesperson for O'Malley said that he isn't planning to propose any other legislation on fracking this legislative session.

Moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in New Jersey expires. The Record. The state's one-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, imposed last year by Governor Christie, expired Thursday, and environmental groups lamented that the state is now exposed to the potential pollution that many critics say can be caused by the procedure. NOTE: E&E News (sub req'd).

HF in Garrett county could have impact in Washington County. Herald-Mail. With Gov. Martin O'Malley setting aside \$1.5 million in the proposed state budget for the next fiscal year to study the economic and environmental impacts of drilling for gas in Western Maryland, there is renewed talk and concern about the issue at the state capital.

Md. governor's budget plan includes money to study HF. Associated Press. Gov. Martin O'Malley has proposed spending \$1.5 million to study using hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in western Maryland.

Poll: NY voters oppose HF by narrow margin. Corning Leader. The poll released Thursday by Siena Research Institute says 44 percent of voters surveyed opposed the Department of Environmental Conservation lifting a 4 1/2-year-old ban on gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," while 40 percent favored lifting the ban. Upstate voters opposed fracking, 51-38 percent.

County Submits Critical HF Comments. Lansing Star. Tompkins County government has made its feelings known about draft regulations that would govern high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) in New York State.

OHIO

Norwegian company buys 70,000 acres in Ohio, West Virginia. Akron Beacon Journal. Norwegian energy company Statoil ASA says it has bought 70,000 acres of land rich in gas and liquid gas in West Virginia and Ohio. The \$590 million deal expands the company's assets in the Marcellus and Utica shale gas deposits in the Appalachian region.

Industrial markets tighten in Northeast Ohio, but speculative building seems unlikely in 2013. Cleveland Plain Dealer. "I think that's going to be the icing on the cake," Robert Brehmer, managing partner at NAI Daus, said of the shale business. "It's not the bread and butter of our market."

Ohio closes in on 500 Utica shale drilling permits. Akron Beacon Journal. Ohio is approaching 500 Utica shale well permits. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management has approved 498 permits in eastern Ohio.

CONSOL Energy has plans for Utica, Marcellus drilling in 2013. Akron Beacon Journal. Consol Energy expects to invest \$835 - \$865 million in its coal, gas, and water businesses in 2013, after adjusting for certain expected proceeds. The table below shows the components of the expected net investment.

Chesapeake working to fix Harrison County problem. Akron Beacon Journal. Chesapeake Energy Corp. is working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Harrison County Health Department on a runoff problem at a drilling site in eastern Ohio in Stock Township.

Harrison watching stream, spring pollution. Steubenville Herald Star. Some area residents depend on Harrison County's rich freshwater resources for clean drinking water, but some believe the Utica and Marcellus shale drilling rush may pose a risk to these springs and streams.

HF opponents to travel to statehouse. Mansfield News Journal. Frack Free Ohio invites the community to join a March 6 trip to the statehouse for Legislator Accountability Day.

TEXAS

Corpus gears up for Eagle Ford gas. Houston Chronicle/Fuel Fix. Even as companies chase crude oil deposits in South Texas,

Corpus Christi is betting on dry natural gas — currently uneconomic to drill — as a long-term fuel supply for its busses and city fleet, and as an export product for its port.

RCW Energy makes \$10000 donation for Pleasanton library. San Antonio Business Journal. RCW Energy Services, which is planning to open an office in Pleasanton, has donated \$10,000 for computers and workstations for the town's planned new library.

Japan oil-and-gas firm targeting Eagle Ford Shale. San Antonio Business Journal. Japex officials said the stakes total 840 acres. That acreage is adjacent to an existing lease of 27,000 acres. Marathon Oil Corp. is the operator of the existing lease and owns a 95 percent ownership stake. The additional acreage will be developed with Marathon Oil.

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